ACCESSORIES . . . . . Fence Add-Ons

Once the router table was built, I decided to spend some time making a group of accessories. The first thing to consider, of course, is safety. The two guards shown below should be the first two accessories you build for your new router table. And before long you'll probably want to add both a featherboard and a vacuum attachment.

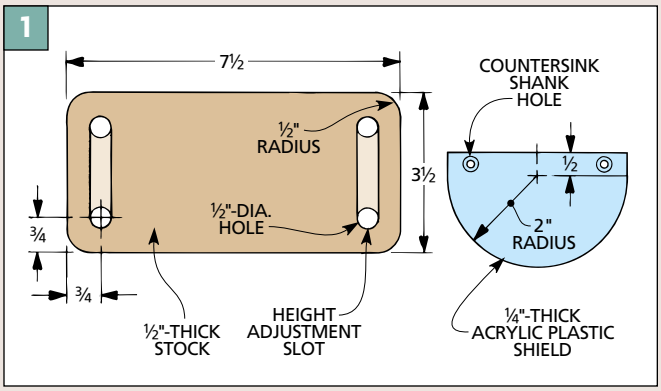
ROUTER BIT GUARD

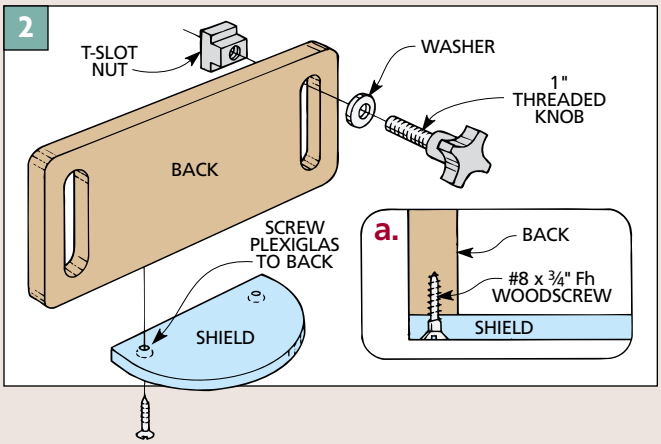
For safety, include a bit guard on the router table. This is made of two pieces: a 1/2"-thick hardwood back with two long slots cut in it, and a 1/4"-thick clear acrylic plastic shield.

The slots in the back allow for height adjustment. The guard assembly is held in the T-slot in the fence with threaded knobs and T-slot nuts.

MATERIALS LIST

(1 pc.) 1/2" hardwood - 3 1/2" - 7 1/2"
(1 pc.) 1/4" clear acrylic plastic - 2 1/2" x 4"
(2) No. 8 x 3/4" Fh woodscrews
(2) 1" threaded knobs
(2) Washers (to fit knobs)
(2) T-slot nuts





GUARD FOR FREEHAND ROUTING

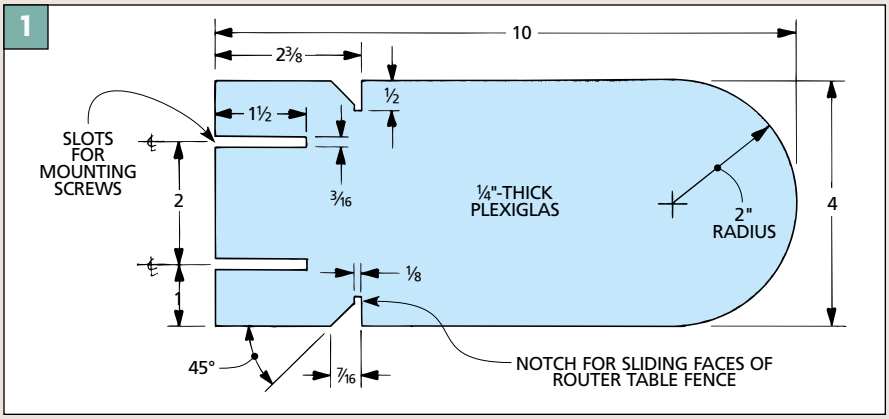
To make a guard for freehand routing, all you need is a single piece of 1/4"-thick clear acrylic plastic.

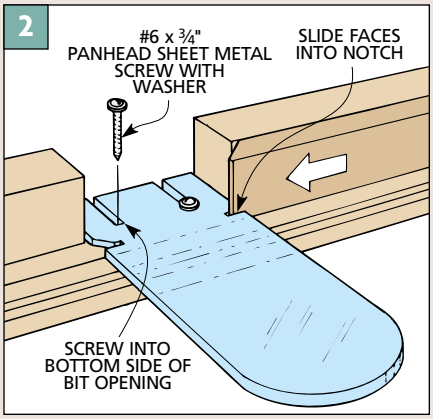
Two straight slots are cut on the back edge to accept mounting screws, and two 45° notches are cut in the sides to fit over the sliding faces of the fence.

To install the guard, turn the fence over and pinch the sliding faces against the guard. Then tighten sheet metal screws in the slots.

MATERIALS LIST

(1 pc.) 1/4" clear acrylic plastic - 4" x 10"
(2) No. 6 x 3/4" Ph sheet metal screws
(2) Washers (to fit screws)





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FEATHERBOARD

MATERIALS LIST

(1 pc.) ½" hardwood - 4⅜" x 7½"
(2) 1" threaded knobs
(2) Washers (to fit knobs)
(2) T-slot nuts

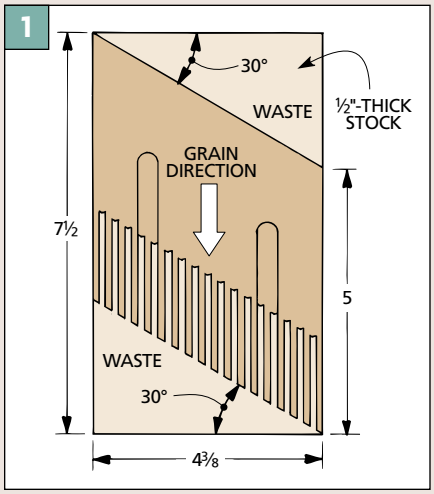
A featherboard keeps boards tight against the table for consistent cuts.

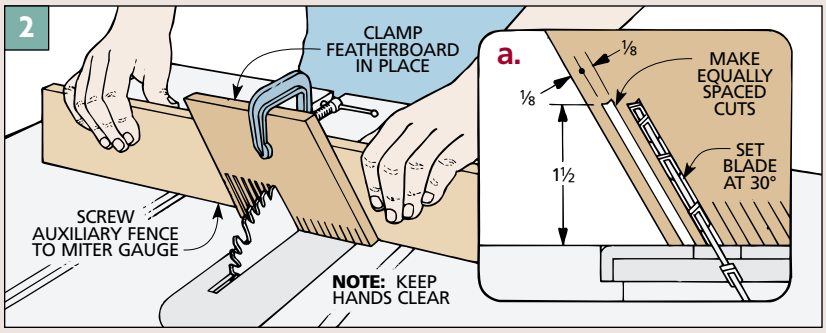
For this one, cut a workpiece from ½" stock with ends cut at 30° *(Fig. 1)*.

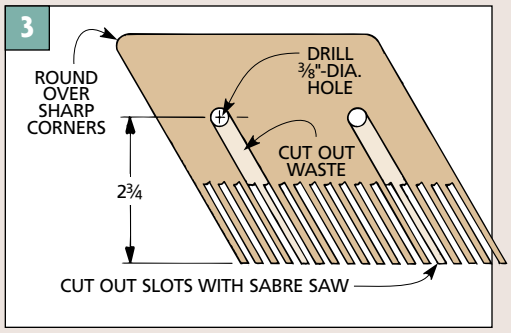
To cut the fingers, attach a tall auxiliary fence to the miter gauge of your table saw *(Fig. 2)*. Now, tilt the saw blade to 30° and raise it to make a 1½"-high cut *(Fig. 2a)*.

With the blade height set, make equally spaced cuts to leave identical fingers.

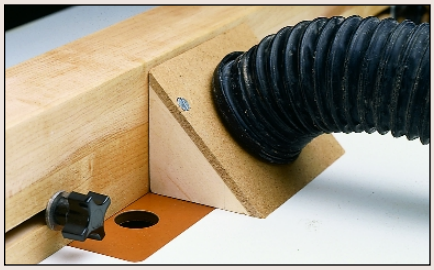
Finally, make two slots for attaching the featherboard to the fence. To do this, drill ⅜" holes, centered 2¾" up from the bottom edge of the featherboard *(Fig. 3)*. Then, cut out the slots with a sabre saw or band saw.







VACUUM ATTACHMENT



Here's an easy-to-build dust collection system that screws to the back of the fence (over the router bit opening) and connects to your shop vacuum.

To build the attachment, cut two triangular-shaped side pieces from ½"-thick stock *(Fig. 1)*.

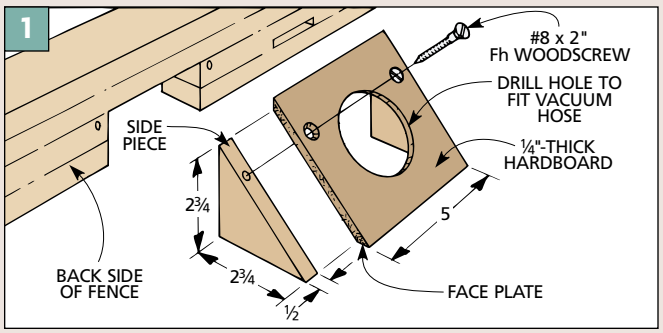
Next, make a face plate from ¼" hardboard. It's 5" wide and beveled on the top and bottom edges to match the side pieces *(Fig. 2)*. The bevels allow the attachment to fit tight against the fence and the table.

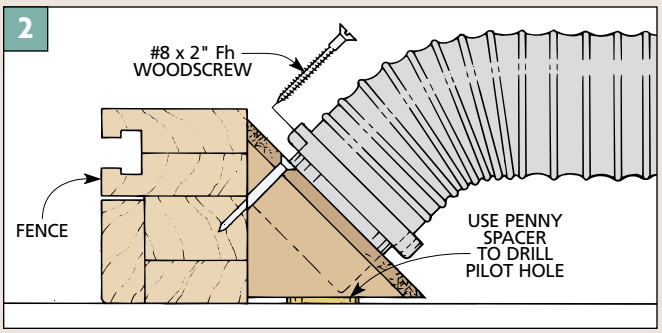
Drill a hole in the face plate so your vacuum hose fits snugly into it *(Fig. 2)*. Glue the pieces together and screw the attachment to the back of the fence.

Note: As you're driving in the screws, the bottom of the vacuum attachment is forced down and tends to lift the fence. To get around this, put pennies under the side pieces before starting the screws *(Fig. 2)*. After they're started, remove the pennies and finish tightening the screws.

MATERIALS LIST

(2 pcs.) ½" hardwood - 2¾" x 2¾"
(1 pc.) ¼" hardboard - 5" x 4" rough
(2) No. 8 x 2" Fh woodscrews





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